CLAIMS:

What is claimed is:

1. A system that provides a generic user interface testing framework, comprising:

an interpretive engine that receives and translates generic interface commands from a tester; and

a native library for mapping the generic interface commands to native language understood by a particular test software tool; and,

wherein the interpretive engine uses the native library to map the directives into tool-dependent codes that are then passed to the test software tool.

2. The system of claim 1 wherein the system includes the test software tool stored locally on the same computer or machine.

3. The system of claim 1 wherein the test software tool is stored at another computer or machine.

4. The system of claim 1 wherein the editor provides a graphical interface to allow the tester to enter said test commands.

5. The system of claim 1 wherein the editor communicates the test commands as a script of directives.

6. The system of claim 1 wherein the test commands can be created offline and subsequently communicated to the interpretive engine.

7. The system of claim 1 wherein the test software tool can be removed and replaced with another test software tool.

8. A method for providing a generic user interface testing framework, comprising the steps of:

allowing a tester to enter a number of generic test commands or directives via an editor or interface; and

translating, using an interpretive engine, the generic interface commands received from the tester, and mapping, using a native library, the generic commands to native language understood by a particular test software tool,

wherein the interpretive engine uses the native library to map the directives into tool-dependent codes that are then passed to the test software tool.

9. The method of claim 8 wherein the system includes the test software tool stored locally on the same computer or machine.

10. The method of claim 8 wherein the test software tool is stored at another computer or machine.

11. The method of claim 8 wherein the editor provides a graphical interface to allow the tester to enter said test commands.

12. The method of claim 8 wherein the editor communicates the test commands as a script of directives.

13. The method of claim 8 wherein the test commands can be created offline and subsequently communicated to the interpretive engine.

14. The method of claim 8 wherein the test software tool can be removed and replaced with another test software tool.

15. A computer readable medium including instructions stored thereon which when executed cause the computer to perform the steps of:

allowing a tester to enter a number of generic test commands or directives via an editor or interface; and

translating, using an interpretive engine, the generic interface commands from the tester, and mapping, using a native library, the generic commands to native language understood by a particular test software tool,

wherein the interpretive engine uses the native library to map the directives into tool-dependent codes that are then passed to the test software tool.

16. The computer readable medium of claim 15 wherein the system includes the test software tool stored locally on the same computer or machine.

17. The computer readable medium of claim 15 wherein the test software tool is stored at another computer or machine.

18. The computer readable medium of claim 15 wherein the editor provides a graphical interface to allow the tester to enter said test commands.

19. The computer readable medium of claim 15 wherein the editor communicates the test commands as a script of directives.

20. The computer readable medium of claim 15 wherein the test commands can be created offline and subsequently communicated to the interpretive engine.

21. The computer readable medium of claim 15 wherein the test software tool can be removed and replaced with another test software tool.